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Dear Traffic Safety Partners:

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Safety is pleased to provide you with a copy of the *2001 Wisconsin Alcohol Traffic Facts Book*. Please note that the title of this book reflects the year for which the most recent data was compiled, not the year of publication.

This book provides statewide traffic-related alcohol information. The emphasis on traffic crashes, arrests, convictions and driver safety plan data presents a variety of alcohol-related data that will serve as a resource for safety, health and social service professionals.

We want to thank the Wisconsin Departments of Health and Family Services, Public Instruction, Natural Resources, Revenue, the Office of Justice Assistance, the University of Wisconsin Law School Resource Center on Impaired Driving, the WisDOT Division of Motor Vehicles, and the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States for their contributions to the content of this book.

This document can be viewed online at www.dot.wisconsin.gov. To obtain additional copies of this book or for more information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John H. Evans".

John H. Evans, Director
Bureau of Transportation Safety

TABLE OF CONTENTS

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES (Preface)

SECTION 1: MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM

| | |
|--|---|
| Problems associated with alcohol and other drug abuse | 1 |
| Alcohol-related deaths in Wisconsin | 1 |
| Alcohol-related injuries and fatalities from motor vehicle crashes, historical summary | 2 |
| Alcohol-related crash costs | 2 |
| Alcohol-related problems involving recreational equipment | 3 |
| Alcohol-related Department of Natural Resources citations, historical summary | 3 |
| OWI and related penalties for recreational equipment | 4 |

SECTION 2: ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

| | |
|---|---|
| Department of Public Instruction survey and Youth Risk Behavior Survey data | 5 |
| Adult alcohol consumption and driving patterns | 6 |
| Alcohol consumption and public treatment costs | 7 |
| Liquor licenses by county | 8 |

SECTION 3: LEGAL SANCTIONS

| | |
|---|----|
| Wisconsin Drinking Driving Law, historical summary | 9 |
| OWI and related alcohol penalties | 11 |
| Underage alcohol offenses and related penalties | 12 |
| Commercial driver license alcohol and other drug offenses and related penalties | 13 |
| Case law update | 14 |

SECTION 4: ALCOHOL ARRESTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Arrests for OWI and liquor law violations 1982-2001 | 15 |
| Adult arrests for OWI and liquor law violations by county 1994-2001 | 16 |
| Juvenile arrests for OWI and liquor law violations by county 1994-2001 | 17 |
| OWI test results and Alcohol Concentration (AC) | 18 |

SECTION 5: ALCOHOL CONVICTIONS

| | |
|--|----|
| Adjudicated OWI citations and OWI arrests | 19 |
| Adjudicated OWI citations by county 1996-2000 | 20 |
| Outcome of adjudicated OWI citations by county | 20 |
| Dispositions of OWI citations by county and test refusal | 21 |
| Adjudicated OWI citations by court type and county | 22 |
| Dispositions of OWI test refusals | 22 |
| Select alcohol-related traffic convictions, historical summary | 23 |
| Underage alcohol operation and consumption by county | 24 |
| Underage alcohol-related convictions | 24 |
| OWI convictions by violation county and repeat offender status | 25 |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 5: CONTINUED

| | |
|---|----|
| OWI convictions by driver's age at time of violation and gender | 26 |
| OWI driver history profile | 27 |
| OWI drivers in the history profile by gender and by age | 27 |
| OWI drivers in the history profile - county of residence by number of OWI convictions | 28 |

SECTION 6: ALCOHOL CRASHES

| | |
|---|----|
| Primary contributing factors in motor vehicle crashes | 29 |
| Portion of crashes that were alcohol-related | 30 |
| Alcohol-related fatalities and injuries, historical summary | 30 |
| Total crashes and alcohol crashes by highway type | 30 |
| Drinking drivers in reportable crashes, historical summary | 30 |
| Alcohol-related crashes by time of day and day of week | 31 |
| Total and alcohol-related crashes by county 1998-2001 | 32 |
| Alcohol-related injuries and fatalities by county 1997-2001 | 33 |
| Total drinking drivers in crashes by county 1998-2001 | 34 |
| Drinking drivers involved in crashes by state residency | 35 |
| Alcohol-related crashes, fatalities, and injuries by month | 35 |
| Persons killed or injured in alcohol-related crashes by age | 35 |
| Drinking drivers in crashes by age by county - 15 to 19 year olds 1997-2001 | 36 |
| Drinking drivers in crashes by age by county - 20 years old and older 1997-2001 | 37 |
| Drinking driver crash rate by age, historical summary | 38 |
| Drivers in fatal crashes by AC test results, historical summary | 38 |
| Safety belt use by drinking and non-drinking drivers and passengers 1997-2001 | 39 |
| Motorcycle driver fatalities by AC test results 1992-2001 | 40 |
| Drinking rates for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists in crashes 1992-2001 | 40 |
| Pedestrian fatalities by AC test results 1992-2001 | 40 |

SECTION 7: DRIVER SAFETY PLANS

| | |
|--|----|
| Court ordered OWI assessments by conviction year | 41 |
| Assessment findings by county | 42 |
| Types of driver safety plans by county | 43 |
| Status of current driver safety plans | 44 |

| | |
|---|----|
| APPENDIX A: Licensed drivers by county | 45 |
|---|----|

| | |
|--|----|
| APPENDIX B: Registered vehicles by county | 45 |
|--|----|

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

- In 2001, 304 people were killed and 6,586 people were injured in 8,695 alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes in Wisconsin. Alcohol-related crashes accounted for 6.9% of all crashes in the state, 40% of all motor vehicle fatalities, and 11% of all motor vehicle injuries. Since 1991, alcohol-related fatalities have declined 9% (from 333), alcohol-related injuries have declined 26% (from 8,899), and alcohol-related crashes have declined 28% (from 12,034).
- On average, one person was killed or injured in an alcohol-related crash in Wisconsin every 76 minutes during 2001. In 1991, on average, one person was killed or injured in an alcohol-related crash in Wisconsin every 57 minutes.
- During 2001, 38,731 people were arrested for Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) in Wisconsin, including 649 persons who were under 18. This compares to 36,385 OWI arrests in 1990.
- Of the 8,702 drinking drivers involved in crashes in 2001, 1,234 (14%) were under age 21 and 7,447 were age 21 or older.
- In 2001, 163 drivers killed in crashes had an alcohol concentration (AC) of 0.10% or higher; 17 were under age 21 and 146 were age 21 or older. These 163 drivers represent 36% of all drivers killed who were tested for alcohol concentration. The 17 drivers under age 21 represent 28% of all drivers under age 21 who were killed in crashes and tested for alcohol concentration. In 1991, 42% of all drivers killed and tested for alcohol concentration had an AC of 0.10% or higher.
- Of the 32,919 drivers convicted of OWI in Wisconsin in 2001, 3,130 (10%) were under age 21 at the time of violation and 29,061 (90%) were age 21 or older.
- Of the 37,718 OWI citations adjudicated in Wisconsin during 2001, almost 92% of the drivers were found guilty. This total included 5,082 cases where the driver refused the alcohol test; 94% of the people who refused the alcohol test were found guilty of OWI.
- The median time between OWI violation and conviction in 2001 was 64 days.
- The median alcohol concentration (AC) test result for 2001 OWI citations was 0.17%.
- In 2000, 5% of the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey respondents (age 18 and older) reported that they drove after drinking too much during the past month. In the 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 10.2% of 10th graders and 29.9% of 12th graders responded that they drove after drinking in the past 30 days.
- As of January 1, 2002, the WisDOT-DMV-Driver Record File showed that, since January 1, 1989:

| | |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| 252,158 | drivers had 1 OWI conviction |
| 34,149 | drivers had 2 OWI convictions |
| 19,021 | drivers had 3 OWI convictions |
| 6,312 | drivers had 4 OWI convictions |
| 2,040 | drivers had 5 OWI convictions |
| 725 | drivers had 6 OWI convictions |
| 257 | drivers had 7 OWI convictions |
| 88 | drivers had 8 OWI convictions |
| 35 | drivers had 9 OWI convictions |
| 17 | drivers had 10 OWI convictions |
| 7 | drivers had 11 OWI convictions |
| 1 | driver had 12 OWI convictions |
| 1 | driver had 13 OWI convictions |
- A “typical” OWI offender is a 38 year old male. Of the 252,158 drivers with one OWI conviction in the driver history profile, 79% were male and 45% were between the ages of 25 and 39. Of the 62,653 repeat offenders, 85% were male and 50% were between the ages of 25 and 39.